

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Releases 'On To 2050' Plan

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On To 2050

CHICAGO (WBBM NEWSRADIO) -- The agency responsible for the Chicago area's long-term planning has released its blueprint for the year 2050.

Joseph Szabo, executive director of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, said they spent nearly three years and reached out to more than 100,000 residents to come up with its vision.

'On to 2050' aims to guide investment in transportation, housing, and open space. It helps identify which projects should get government funding, something DuPage County board chair Dan Cronin said is increasingly challenging as fewer dollars come in from Washington and Springfield.

He was speaking to a crowd of 1,000 people under a tent in Millennium Park, according to organizers.

The report said the area must work to offer economic opportunity for all communities and invest in infrastructure to withstand more flooding and heat brought by climate change.

Laurence Msall, president of the Civic Federation said without such a plan, it's hard for governments to budget for investments and hard for the public to hold their officials accountable.

"Because without a plan you cannot hold your government accountable. Without a plan, you cannot reach that consensus on what your priorities are and then make sure that your budgets reflect them," he said.